

Natural Inquirer Reader Series

Number 3

Grades K–2

Word Count: 417

Genre: Nonfiction

For more information about Dr. Guo's research, read "North of the Border" in the *Natural IQ* Southern United States Climate Change edition, <http://www.naturalinquirer.org>.

Note: For more background information and a lesson plan, visit <http://www.naturalinquirer.org> and click on "Natural Inquirer Reader Series."

Background Information: Dr. Guo's research focused on nonnative plant and animal species. Nonnative plant and animal species might move on their own or are moved by humans to a new area. When nonnative species are successful in their new habitat, they compete with native species for food, nesting, and breeding places. Scientists like Dr. Guo want to discover if nonnative species are limited to certain habitats by things like climate and latitude.

In this reader, students are challenged to think about how animals might move to a new habitat. Students are also challenged to think about how weather conditions affect animals' ability to live in new areas. You can introduce the idea of nonnative animals using the map showing the frog moving to Hawai'i. This frog came to Hawai'i from Puerto Rico in shipping cartons that contained plants. In Puerto Rico, the coqui frog is native. In Hawai'i, the coqui frog is nonnative and is competing with native frogs for habitat.

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